

Asset MANAGEMENT

From Capital Projects to the Clean 13

When the Georgia Water Coalition released its 2017 Clean 13 Report of organizations praised for their environmental stewardship, the Macon Water Authority was among them. The recognition reflected not only the success of another major capital project, but an example of the Authority turning a former adversary into an advocate.

The Altamaha Riverkeeper is a grassroots organization dedicated to the preservation of Georgia's largest river – the Altamaha – and its tributaries, including the Ocmulgee, which serves as a source for drinking water production at the MWA. Thus, both organizations have a vested interest in protecting this natural resource.

However, years ago the Altamaha Riverkeeper had more of an adversarial relationship with the Macon Water Authority and led efforts to criticize the MWA for its record on sewer spills and overflows that negatively impacted the Ocmulgee. Today, after investing in capital projects to improve the structural integrity of its sewer system, the Authority has garnered the respect and praise of the Altamaha Riverkeeper, evident in this environmental watchdog nominating the MWA for the Clean 13 honor.

The Clean 13 is a list recognizing the extraordinary work accomplished by individuals, businesses, industries, non-profit organizations, as well as state and local governments, to protect Georgia's water.

The MWA was recognized specifically for its innovative, cured-in-place pipe lining and restoration capital project along the Ocmulgee River. This project not only rehabilitated the structural integrity of the sewer lines in this portion of the MWA system, but also protected the Ocmulgee River during construction and reduced the potential for sewer spills and overflows in the area.

While the pipe lining project along the Ocmulgee was a highlight of MWA's Capital Improvements this past year, additional projects included approximately \$3.5 Million in the rehabilitation of the Rocky Creek and Lower Poplar Water Reclamation Facilities, and \$2.8 Million in the relocation of water/sewer lines for the Georgia DOT I-16 and I-75 Interchange Redesign, and more.



Georgia's Clean 13

The Georgia Water Coalition recognized the MWA in its 2017 Clean 13 Report of organizations praised for their environmental stewardship. The MWA received this honor for its innovative pipe lining project along the Ocmulgee River.



The MWA went far beyond simply replacing old pipes along the Ocmulgee River; they were willing to substantially invest in more expensive technology to provide the community with long-term functional water systems," says Jen Hilburn, Executive Director of the Altamaha Riverkeeper. "Additionally, this innovative work allowed the Authority to avoid ripping up the banks of the river for traditional pipe replacement. The MWA has embraced a long-term commitment to good water works that will continue to make them leaders in their field."